WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Import of Telephone Instruments from Italy

*206. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that some time in 1979 Government have entered into a Rs. 24 crore deal with FACE Standard, an Italian subsidiary of International Telephone and Telegraph Corporation of USA to produce every year a million modern, light weight, cost-effective telephone instruments; and that not a single telephone instrument has yet been added under the deal to the country's communication net work;

(b) whether it is also a fact that over one lakh instrument kits imported from M/s. FACE Standard for assembly in India, almost a year back have been lying with the ITI unused and that over 90,000 kits are lying in the custom warehouses at Bombay and Madras for clearance;

(c) if so, what are reasons therefor indicating the estimated loss, if any, suffered by Government on this account; and

(d) what steps are contemplated by Government in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI ARJUN SINGH): (a) It is a fact that the Indian Telephone Industries (ITI) had entered into an agreement with FACE Standard of Italy to produce every year a million telephone instruments but in October 1983 and not in 1979.

The agreement provided for production of 5 lakh rotary telephones and 2.5 lakh additional critical components per year by I.T.I. at each of its Bangalore and Naini Units. The total anticipated cost of the Project as a whole for both the locations together was Rs. 18.33 crores.

It is a fact that it has not been possible so far to produce any telephone instrument under this agreement.

(b) M|s. FACE Standard had supplied about one lakh instrument kits in the first lot, part of which were cleared.

M|s. FACE Standard have despatched another 90,000 kits, which have so far not been cleared by the Customs.

(c) and (d) M|s. FACE Standard had been chosen as collaborator on the basis of global tenders. They had guaranteed that the instruments will meet the relevant spcifications of the Department of Telecommunications. However, the tests on the first lot of telphone instruments assembled from the kits failed to meet certain essential parameters. These included the transmission performance, the drop test, the slip test and the hook switch weight test. Since these parameters are essential for proper quality of speech and adequate reliability of the instruments in the network, the Department of Telecommunications insisted that the collaborator be asked to ensure that these parameters are fully met.

Accordingly I.T.I. has had negotiations with the collaborator. The collaborator has agreed to provide alternate components and modify the design of the body to meet the spefications of the Department of Telecommunications. Fifty instruments with the modified body and new components have been tested and have met the parameters except the slip test. The design of the rubber pads for the telephone instruments is being modified to meet these tests. It is expected that another 50 instruments which are now being assembled will meet all the parameters. Thereafter, the bulk assembly and supply of the telephone instruments from the modified kits will be resumed.

The collaborator has agreed to supply free of cost all modification material to bring the telephones in line with the agreed specifications. In addition, the collaborator has agreed to give a 5% discount on the FOB value for 90,000 kits supplied in the second batch. With this, no financial loss is anticipated.

With the changes in technology, it has now been decided that I.T.I. will not produce the rotary telephones, but only fully electronic instruments. The collaborator, M/S FACE Standard, will provide the necessary know-how without any additional charge for production of fully electronic telephone instruments. The collaborator has also agreed to take back all capital goods rendered surplus with the decision to switch over from rotary to electronic instruments. The samples of the electronic instruments are under evaluation.

Increasing number of accidents in Air India

*207. SHRI SUKOMAL SEN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the number of accidents in Air India has lately increased due to shortage of maintenance staff and proper training;

(b) if so, what are the reasons for such shortage of staff; and

(c) whether any review has been done to locate the reason for such accidents and measures taken to rectify the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Institute of Medical Sciences at Nagpur

*208. SHRI NARESH C. PUGLIA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Maharashtra has requested the Central Government for setting up of an Institute of Medical Sciences at Nagpur;

(b) if so, what decision has been taken by Government in this regard; and

(c) by when Government propose to set up such an Institute?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE): (a) A request was received in September, 1985 from the then Chief Minister of Maharashtra that the Government of India might finance the project for establishment of a Postgraduate Institute at Nagpur.

(b) A reply was sent in November, 1985 by the former Union Health Minister that there is no proposal in seventh five year plan for setting up a central Postgraduate institute in any state, excepting the scheme for establishment of a North Eastern Regional Institute of Medical Sciences at Shillong.

(c) Does not arise.

Inclusion of Kabaddi in Asiad 1990

*209. SHRI SURESH KALMADI: SHRI KISHOR MEHTA:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether any steps have been taken by Government to get Kabaddi included in the 1990-Asian Games to be held in Beijing; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?